



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,810	04/26/2005	Kenji Kuwayama	052503	9420

38834 7590 09/20/2006

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP
1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW
SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

BARAN, MARY C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2857

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,810

Applicant(s)

KUWAYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Mary Kate B. Baran

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>26 April 2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 7 and 17-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:
(a) Claim 7 page 4 line 1, claim 17 line 2, claim 18 line 2, claim 19 line 2 and claim 10 line 2, please delete "is".
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuboi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,380) (hereinafter Tsuboi).

Referring to claim 1, Tsuboi teaches a measurement electronic device system (see Tsuboi, column 6 lines 43-48) comprising: a plurality of measurement electronic device units each having a measurement detector connected thereto and having a measuring function (see Tsuboi, column 6 lines 43-56 and Figure 1), the plural measurement electronic device units being connected in series by connectors to be capable of mutually conveying measurement data and signals (see Tsuboi, column 13 lines 58-64), and one of the plural measurement electronic device units serving as a parent device having a function of transmitting/receiving measurement data and signals

Art Unit: 2857

to/from an external device (see Tsuboi, column 7 lines 11-18), wherein each of said plural measurement electronic device units has a memory storing a measured value (see Tsuboi, column 8 lines 49-61), and said parent device has a means for issuing a measured value save command to said plural measurement electronic device units including the own unit, in response to a request from the external device, to thereby cause said plural measurement electronic device units to simultaneously save measured values by the respective detectors in the memories (see Tsuboi, column 7 lines 22-30 and column 10 lines 17-27).

Referring to claim 2, Tsuboi teaches that said measurement electronic device unit as the parent device has a means for causing all said measurement device units including the own unit which are connected in series to save the measured values by the respective detectors in the memories, also in response to an externally supplied measured value save command (see Tsuboi, column 7 lines 22-30 and column 10 lines 17-27).

Referring to claims 3 and 8, Tsuboi teaches that said measurement electronic device unit as the parent device has a means for selectively changing connection of a signal line connected to the other measurement electronic device units to one of a signal line from an external device and a signal line of an internal output (see Tsuboi, column 9 lines 4-6).

Referring to claims 4, 9 and 10, Tsuboi teaches that each of said measurement electronic device units except the parent device has a means for disconnecting mutually coupled signal lines to change connection to a signal line from an external part (see Tsuboi, column 14 lines 3-19).

Referring to claims 5 and 11-13, Tsuboi teaches that each of said plural measurement electronic device units includes: a storing means for storing an operation parameter (see Tsuboi, column 8 lines 55-61 and column 10 lines 5-12); and an arithmetic means for performing an arithmetic operation on the measured value saved in the memory, based on the parameter stored in the storing means (see Tsuboi, column 11 lines 11-15).

Referring to claims 6 and 14-16, Tsuboi teaches that said measurement electronic device unit as the parent device further includes a sum calculating means for calculating a sum of individual operation results calculated by the arithmetic means in the measurement electronic device units designated out of said plural measurement electronic device units (see Tsuboi, column 11 lines 11-15).

Referring to claims 7 and 17-20, Tsuboi teaches that each of said plural measurement electronic device units (see Tsuboi, Figure 1) comprises: a main body housing the connector for mutual series connection and said respective means (see Tsuboi, column 13 lines 58-64)); and a display unit attachable/detachable to/from the

main body, the display unit including: a display displaying the measured value and the parameter; and operation keys (see Tsuboi, column 8 lines 26-31), and the main body and the display unit including connectors that directly connect the main body and that allow the main body and the display unit to be electrically connected via a connecting line when the display unit is detached from the main body (see Tsuboi, Figure 1 and column 6 lines 44-48).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- (a) Billig et al. teach a load monitoring electrical outlet system.
- (b) Kureck et al. teach multiple hoist synchronization apparatus and method.
- (c) White et al. teach a method, system and program for the transmission of MODBUS messages between networks.
- (d) Weinhofer et al. teach an output CAM system and method.
- (e) Fujii et al. teach a method for optically transmitting signals in measurement units and measurement system employing the optical transmission method.


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Kate B. Baran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2211. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Art Unit: 2857

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

13 September 2006


CAROL S.W. TSAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER